

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) to notify potentially affected individuals of improper disclosures of protected health information (PHI). A breach was discovered on May 18, 2021, and notified all impacted individuals by mail on June 25, 2021. Approximately 300 of these notifications were returned to SWNPHD as undeliverable. This message constitutes substitute service for those individuals we attempted to notify but were unable to reach. If you have any questions or believe you may have been one of the individuals with an undeliverable address, please contact us Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department.



On May 18, 2021, Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department was made aware that data regarding COVID-19 vaccinations was accessible through the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department website. We are contacting you because based on our files, your information was included in the datafile that was erroneously accessible via the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department website. We have been in contact with our website host and there is only one known instance of that file being accessed. The personal information that was included in the file was the following: Name, Address, County, Date of Birth, Date of Vaccination, Vaccination Type, Race and Gender. That individual who unintentionally accessed the file has worked closely with Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department and we do not believe there is any ongoing cause for concern related to the file being accessed.

At Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department, we take all your records and your privacy very seriously and apologize about this isolated instance. We have worked, and will continue to work, with our employees to ensure that an event like this does not occur again. In addition to that, our staff will go through additional training related to HIPAA, privacy, and confidentiality. If you have any questions or concerns about this matter, please reach out to our team at one of the following numbers:

308-345-4223

1-833-685-2801 (Toll-free number)

Again, we apologize that this occurred and look forward to working with you and your community to prevent, protect and promote public health in our region.

Sincerely,

Myra Stoney
Health Director